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# SCIENCE

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LIFE AND CHEMISTRY.\*

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As I look into the eyes of those before me, I can not but have the feelings of Moleschott in his address at the reopening of the University of Rome when he found himself 'in the face of an audience whom he had nothing to teach, but from whom he had much to learn.'

An imposing knowledge of the distinctions attained by my two distinguished predecessors, perhaps should be depressing; for it is no longer an investment here to forge ahead, but an investment to keep up. On the contrary, their unseen presences stand not as spectres, but as gracious good guardians.

It becomes necessary in the outset to confess to an inner consciousness, that we know. *How* we need not consider for the present further than that the internal thought-centers, association or sense-centers take impressions from the external world and transform them into presentations, which automatically, as it were, frame themselves into concepts. The 'ultimate nature of reality' is not of immediate moment.

Doubtless, man from his earliest experience has speculated on the origin and perpetuation of life, that is, nature. This period is no exception. President Jordan has written, 'whatever else may be said of it, this is certainly the age of deliberate scrutiny of origins and destiny.'

Kant, among many things, wrote 'Only

\* Inaugural lecture on the assumption of the head professorship of chemistry in the College of the City of New York, February 28, 1905.